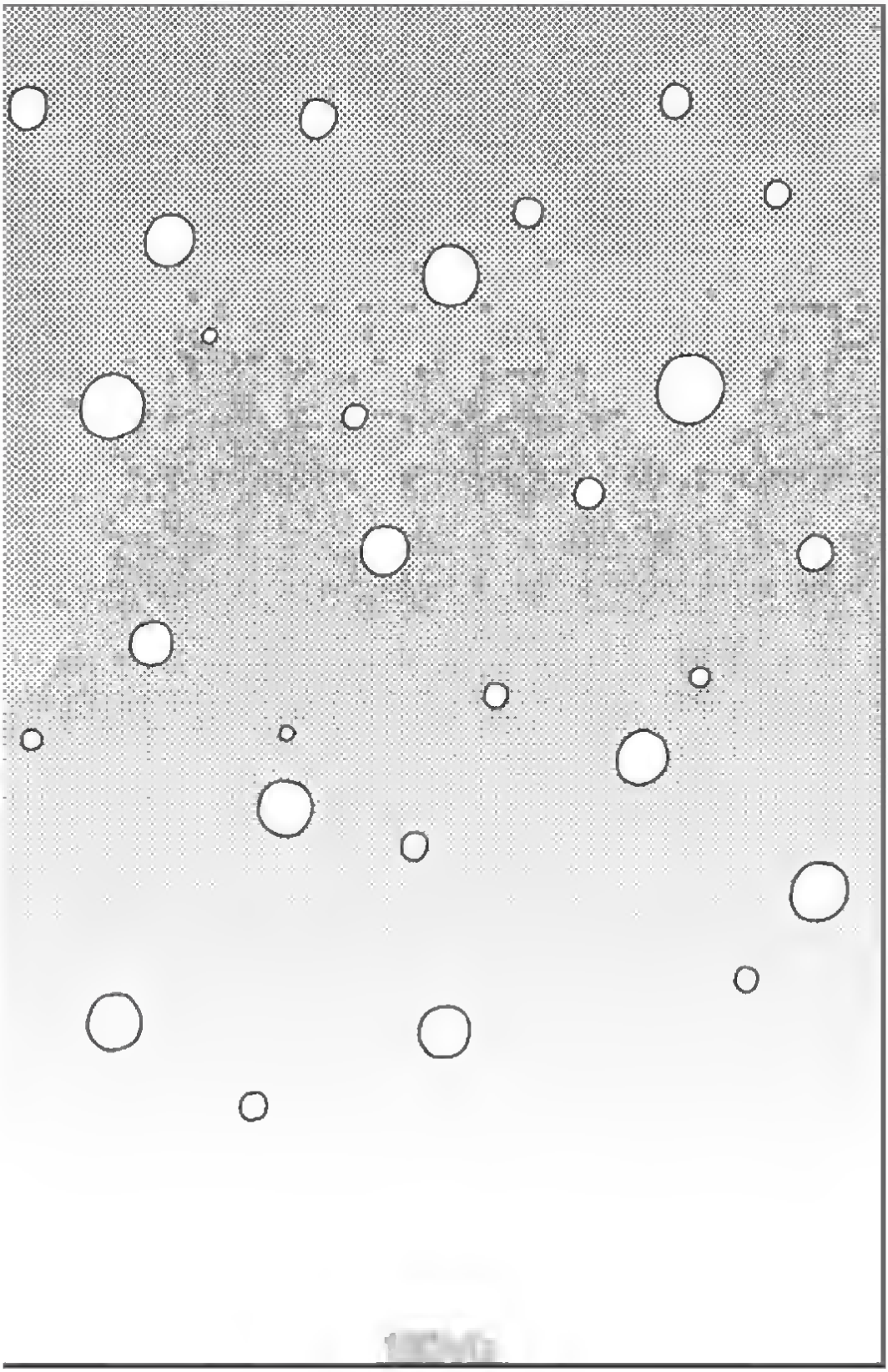
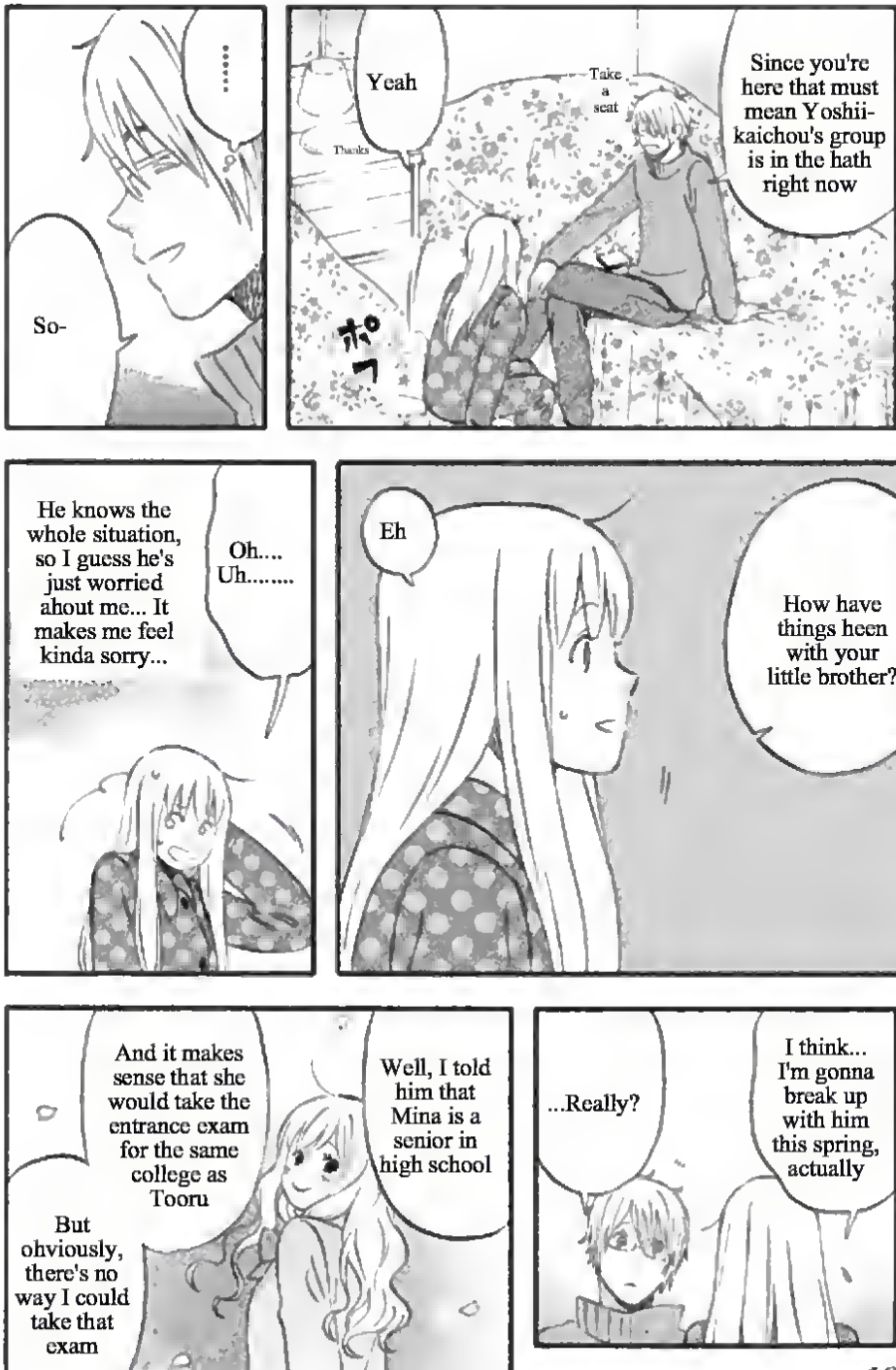
第36話 × サークル合宿・最終日



Something the matter?
Uh……
I see, so now you've found me
Ah ha ha……
I was just looking for someone to talk to since I didn't have anything better to do and the kitchen doesn't really fit four people...
But I still want just one more night to mentally prepare for it...
If I leave now, then I'll definitely be caught by Tsukaguchi-senpai, who's just dying to ask me out
He's most likely looking for me right now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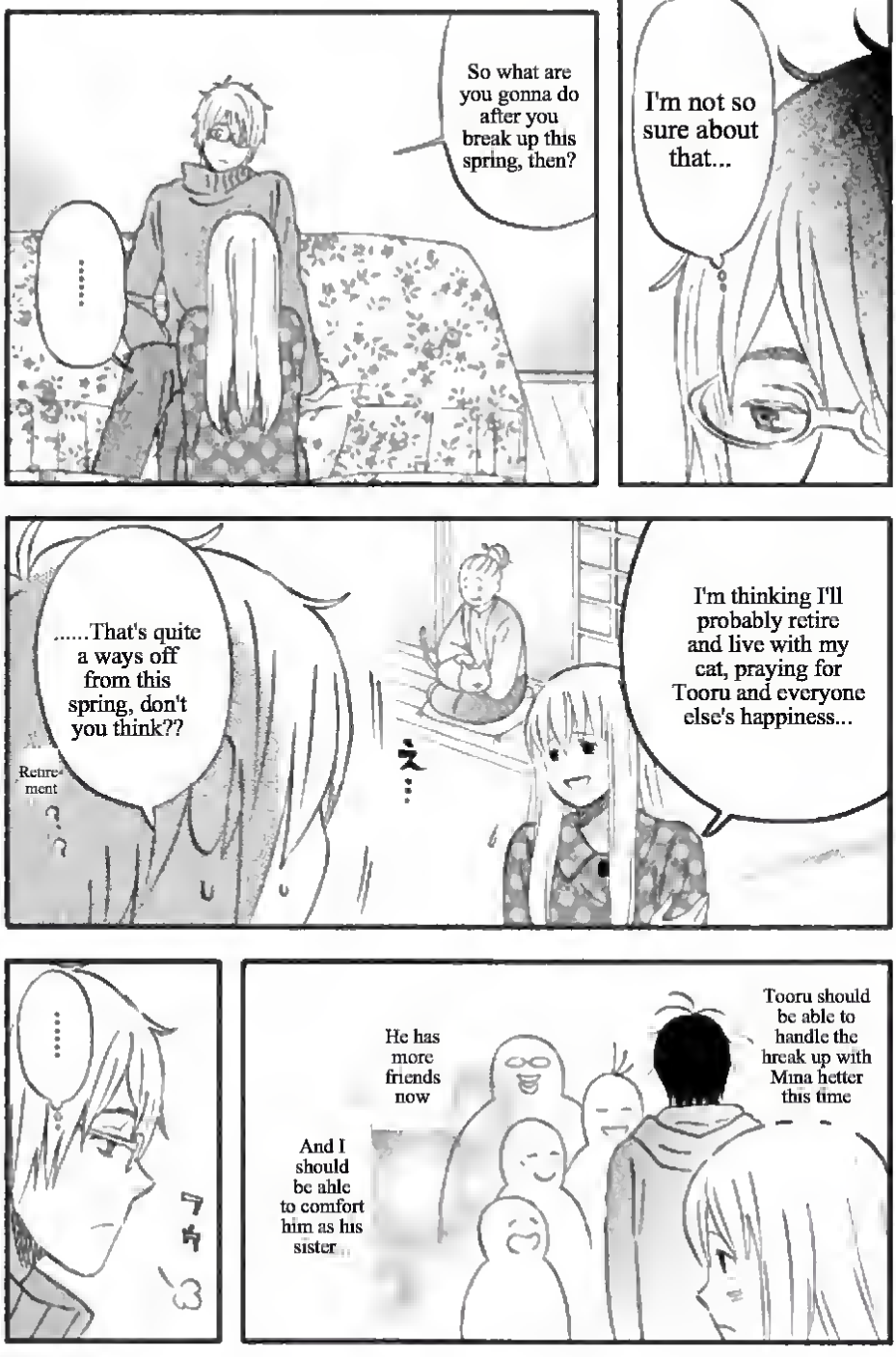
So-
Yeah
Thanks
Take a seat
Since you're here that must mean Yoshii-kaichou's group is in the hath right now
He knows the whole situation, so I guess he's just worried about me... It makes me feel kinda sorry...
Oh.... Uh.....
Eh
How have things been with your little brother?
And it makes sense that she would take the entrance exam for the same college as Tooru
But obviously, there's no way I could take that exam
Well, I told him that Mina is a senior in high school
...Really?
I think... I'm gonna break up with him this spring, actually

What are you planning on doing as his sister?
Huh?
...
So I figure that this is a good time to put a stop to it...
...So if you're putting a stop to that relationship,
And besides, it's not like we could just keep going like this until we're old and wrinkly...
W-what do you mean "what am I planning"...?
Isn't it obvious that nothing's going to happen between siblings?
Honestly,
...
Besides, it's not like Tooru would ever look at me that way if he knew I was his sister, right?


So what are you gonna do after you break up this spring, then?
.....
I'm not so sure about that...
.....That's quite a ways off from this spring, don't you think??
Retirement
I'm thinking I'll probably retire and live with my cat, praying for Tooru and everyone else's happiness...
.....
He has more friends now
Tooru should be able to handle the break up with Mina better this time
And I should be able to comfort him as his sister

You know, it can be pretty painful to just keep thinking about someone you already broke up with
...Take it from someone who knows
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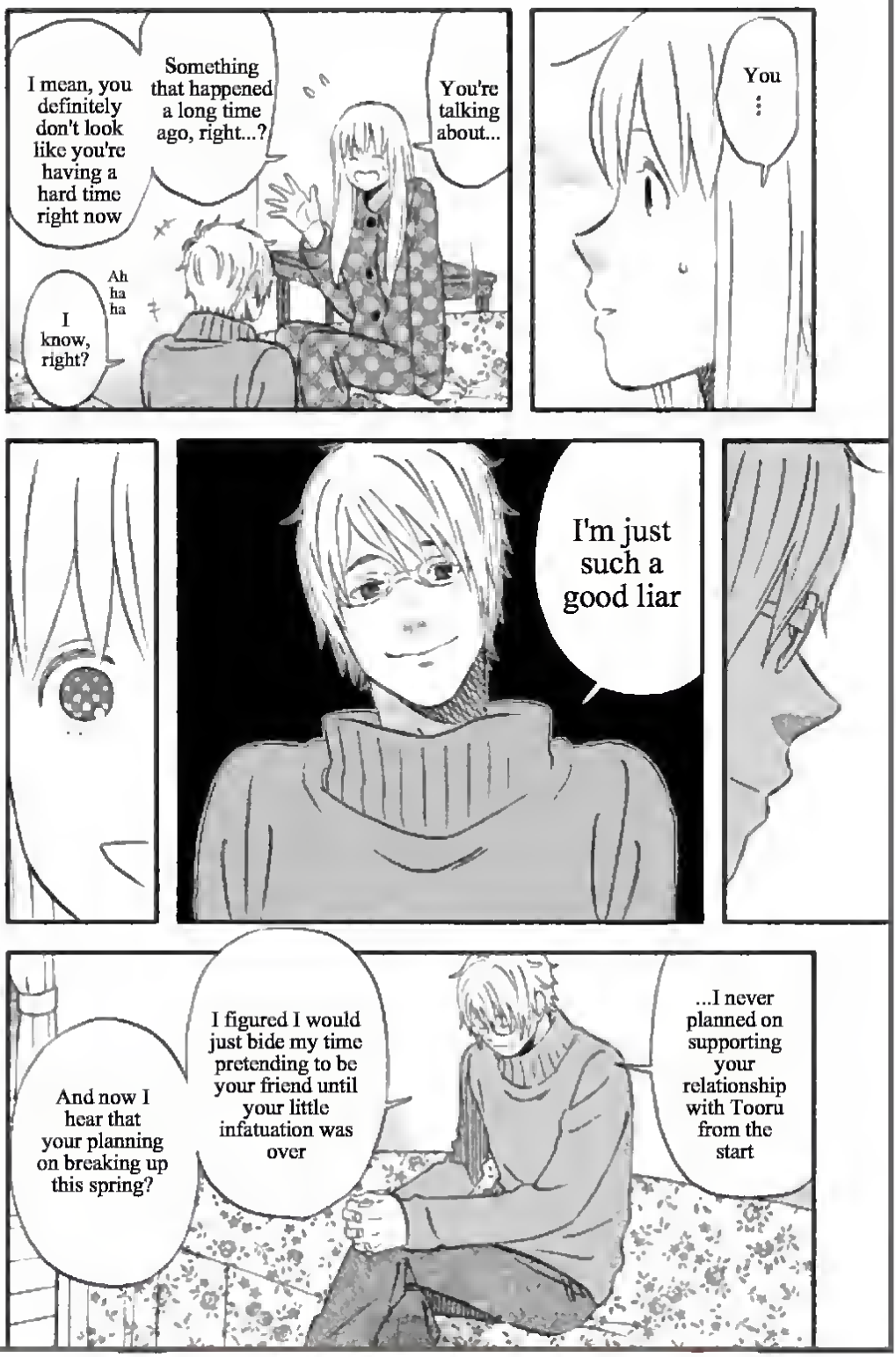

I mean, you definitely don't look like you're having a hard time right now
Something that happened a long time ago, right...?
You're talking about...
Ah ha ha
I know, right?
You
I'm just such a good liar
And now I hear that your planning on breaking up this spring?
I figured I would just bide my time pretending to be your friend until your little infatuation was over
...I never planned on supporting your relationship with Tooru from the start

What can I say? I'm just not a very nice guy
Of course I'm going to think this is my chance and start expecting something
Is what I said just now a lie or has everything up until now been the lie...?
...Hm I wonder
.....
Is that...
the truth?
Whichever one you want to believe is fine with me
It's okay for you to choose

ガチャ
Kaichou said we're up next for the bath...
コンコン
Ah

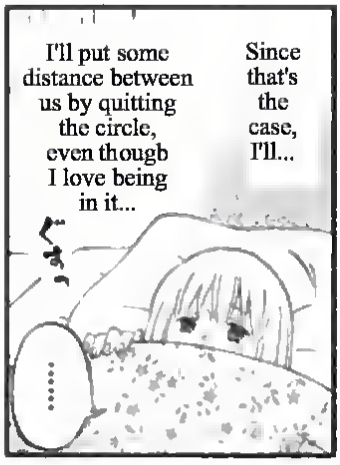
Thanks, I'll be right there
Sorry
S-sorry for bothering you
……
……

* 'Ri' is an archaic way to refer to distance and one ri is about two and a half miles.

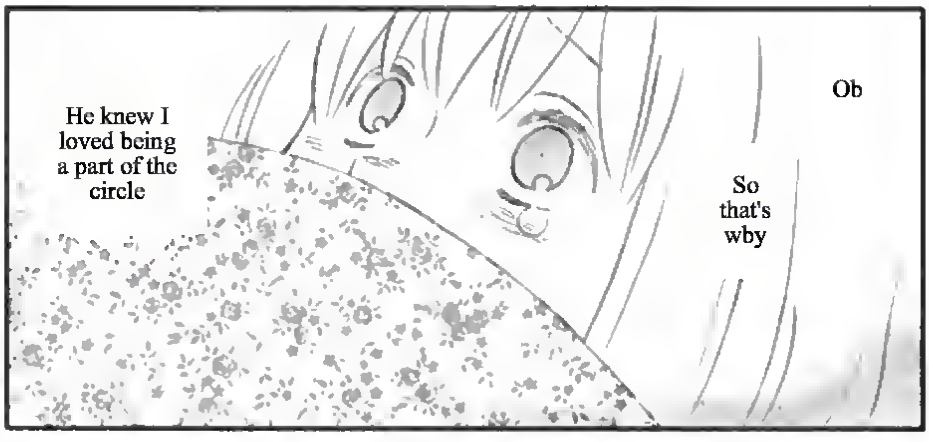
Precisely what singer and composer wrote the song that kaichou is currently singing?
For the Buddha~ in my heart~
カポーン
Ugh, it's better just to pretend you can't hear it. It'll just be your loss if you actually try to ask about it

...Well I don't know the whole story, but it seems like it?
Huh?
Do you know if my sister's going out with that guy?
Huh
How

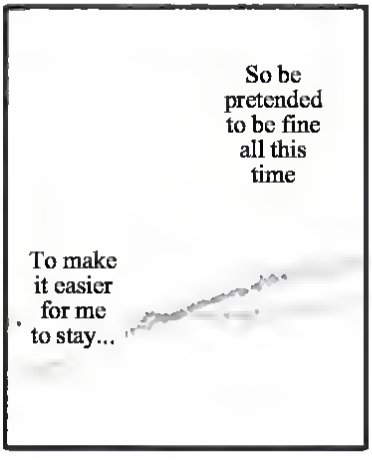
This might be my whole lifetime's worth of popularity
But God, I really wisb the timing was better!
Why is being popular so awful?
Friends
Likes
Still likes
Ex-Boyfriend
Now friends
Rela-tion-ship advice
Same person
Lovey-dovey
How did it get to this...!
That time
And that time
And that time, too
.....
What must be have been feeling during the time we spent together...
Karasuma-kun... Even I can understand whicb one is really the lie

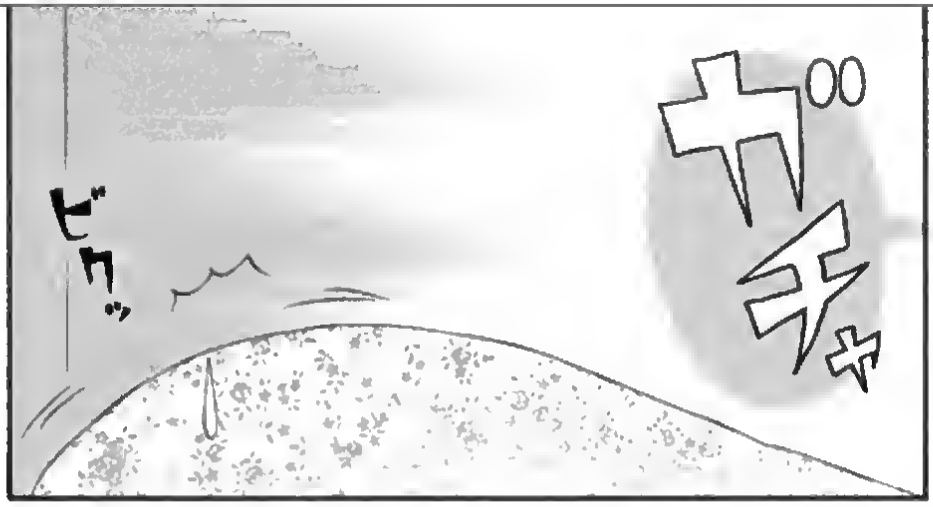

I'll put some distance between us by quitting the circle, even though I love being in it...
Since that's the case, I'll...

All along he's been wanting to tell me
He's been wanting to tell me
How painful it is to be with me


He knew I loved being a part of the circle
Oh
So that's why

I just wanna die


So he pretended to be fine all this time
To make it easier for me to stay...

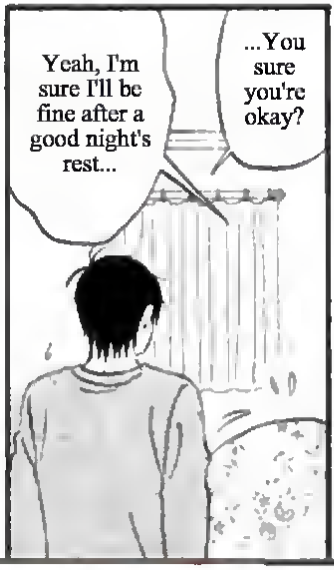

ドドド
ドチャ

Oh, uh, I think I caught a little bit of a cold after the bath... So I'm just going to go to bed early so it doesn't get any worse
I can't go out there looking like this
Oh……

Everyone's waiting
...You're not gonna have any dinner?
Eek! I forgot that this isn't the time to be crying!

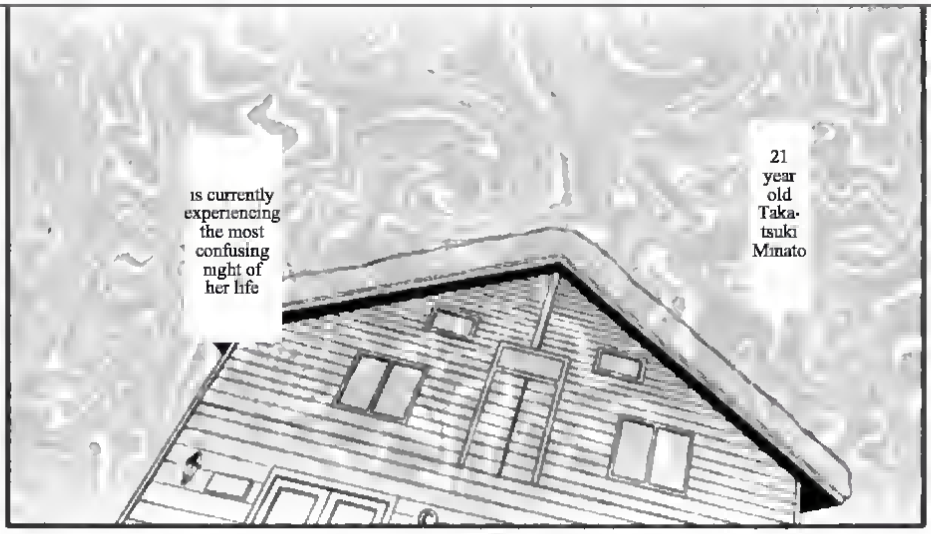
...Hey
パチン
Yeah?

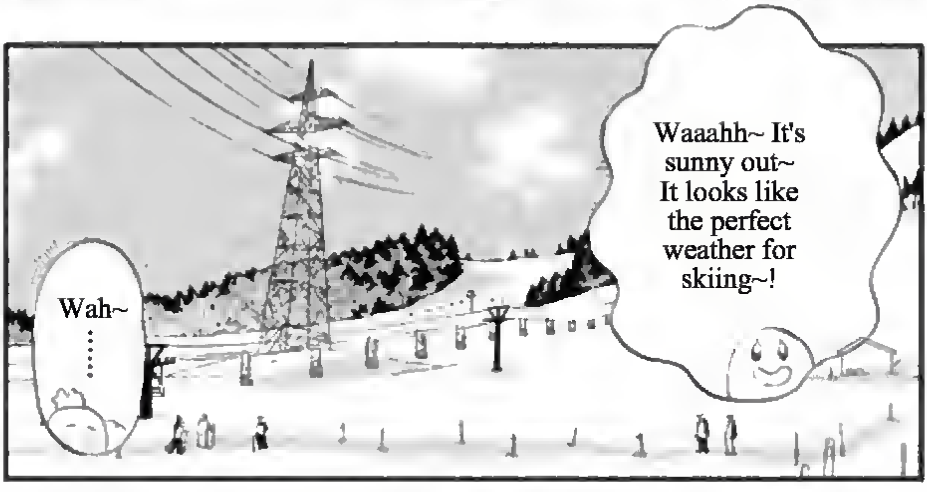
...Okay, I'll turn off the lights then
Th-thanks


...You sure you're okay?
Yeah, I'm sure I'll be fine after a good night's rest...

You know, it's the first time for me to be on a trip like this
...And it never would have happened if you hadn't invited me and I hadn't joined your circle
.....
So I just want to say thank you
It's a lot of fun

ムニ…
Good night
So Tooru's happy he joined the circle...
...I see
Which make me happy I invited him...
And whatever the heck is going on with Tsukaguchi-senpai...
Geh……
Despite how bad I feel for Karasuma-kun


21 year old Takatsuki Minato
is currently experiencing the most confusing night of her life


Waaahh~ It's sunny out~ It looks like the perfect weather for skiing~!
Wah~

In the end, I hardly got any sleep last night, but I need to get my act together so that
I don't make everyone worry
he he he...

Y-yeah!
It would be great if you were feeling better though, Minacchi~

Minato, do you want me to show you how to ski?
!
Kara-suma-kun

ハーイ
Alright everyone, let's split up and go ski!

I'm grateful, but can't let him spoil me like this anymore...
Thanks, but I'll try it out by myself, first...

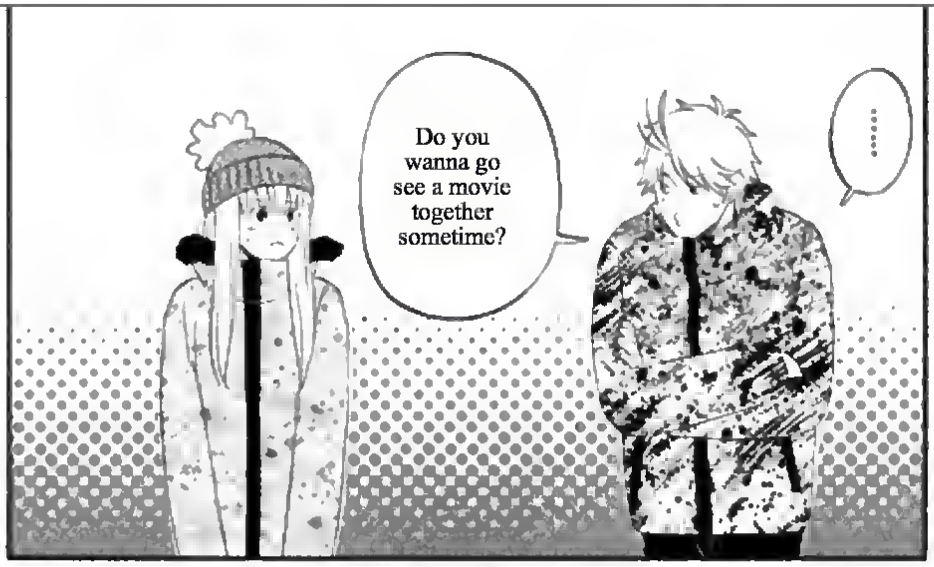
He's talking to me like everything's the same as usual...
He's doing it again

S-sure! I'll make sure to do that!
Just let me know if you need some help
Okay

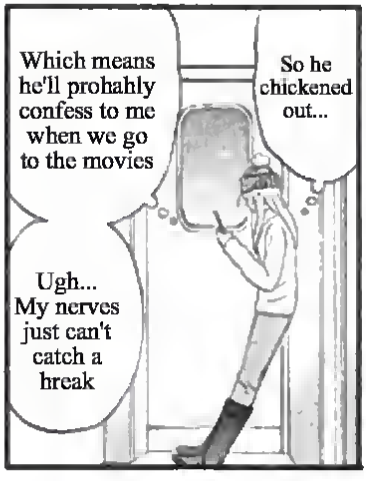
Maybe it's because I didn't sleep very well and I keep zoning out, hut I am shockingly bad at skiing...
Although if nothing else, I seem to have mastered how to catch myself when I fall...
Well
Everyone else looks like they're having fun
All that's left for me to do is...

...Build a snowman
ザッ
Hm? This kind of looks like...
If I just...
Then everyone would feel down and the trip would have been a waste
Like what if I sprained my ankle or something?
Now that I think about it, it's probably dangerous to try skiing while I'm so distracted
It's a Kawanishi-kaichou snowman~!
I did it!

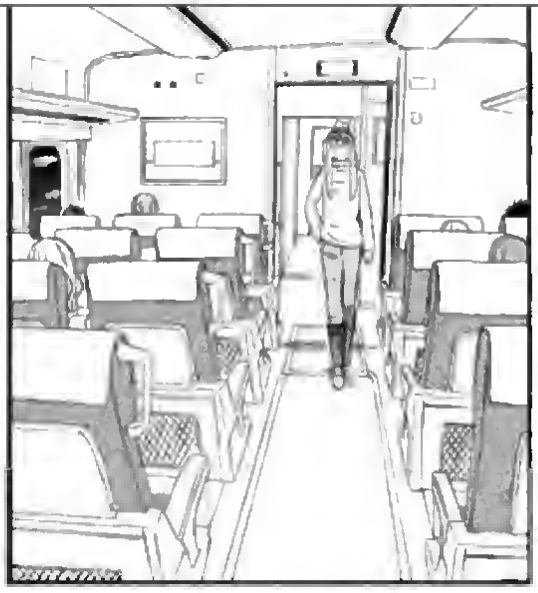
Don't you think it would be perfect if you made it a little rounder?
Eh he he
That's pretty impressive
Eek I was way too focused on building the snowman
Building a snowman is way more intense than I thought...!
I've been here the whole time, you know
Huh ?
Waaahh! What are you doing here!?
I need to properly listen to his confession...!!
Here it comes!
...So Takatsuki...
He even gave me an extra night to mentally prepare myself
Wait a minute, he surprised me, but really this is the perfect chance for him since we're all alone together


Do you wanna go see a movie together sometime?
.....

Eh?
.....


Which means he'll prohahly confess to me when we go to the movies
So he chickened out...
Ugh... My nerves just can't catch a hreak

受信メール 0680
塚口 Tsukaguchi
02/02 18:26
誘してしまって、映画に誘うのが精一杯だった…
I chickened out at the last minute, and all I could do was invite her to go see a movie...



But still, Tsukaguchi-senpai is trying his best to move forward

I need to follow his example and do this right...

I should be saying that to you
Thanks for organizing everything
The ski trip seems like it was over before I knew it...
.....
Hm
.....